

REMARKS

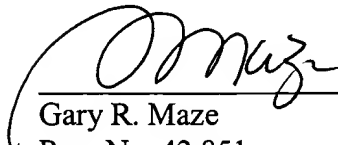
Claims have been rewritten in independent form to secure allowance of claims 7-10,12-14 and 17-20.

Claim 1 is rejected as anticipated over the Huber USP 5,971,072 patent assigned to Schlumberger. The '072 patent runs one or more tools on a single string with a female receptacle for each tool being one half of an inductive coupler. The male end of the inductive coupler is run through the tubing and positioned adjacent the female portion that is in turn tied to a downhole tool that is sought to be operated. In that manner, selected downhole tools can be actuated without electrical contact and in a desired order.

This reference is different than claim 1, as revised in the preliminary amendment. Claim is novel because the reference runs the entirety of the tubing in one trip and only then lowers the male end of the inductive coupler to the mating female portion of an inductive coupler. All female portions are run down together with the entire string from the surface to the zone(s) of interest. Claim 1 requires tagging into the downhole assembly **and** into the connection for the cable or conduit on a subsequent trip. The '072 patent only tags into the female portion of the inductive coupling on a subsequent trip. The tubing carrying the female portion of the inductive coupler is run in with tubing that extends from the surface to the zone of interest on the initial trip. Claim 1 and the remaining rejected claims are respectfully submitted to be allowable over the Huber reference.

Respectfully submitted,

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Naci Mugger

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